AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A payment distribution method for distributing to a plurality of providers respective percentage shares of a ~~predetermined~~ fixed user fee paid by a user for using, during a ~~predetermined~~ fixed-length billing period, products and services that are supplied by the providers to the user through a user network access device that provides access to an electronic network, the method comprising:

setting up a system server and running a system program on the server;

installing and running a client program on the user network access device;

recording usage data indicating usage of the products and services of each provider that are by the user, the usage data comprising at least one usage elements selected from the group consisting of

size of files accessed,

number of files accessed,

time spent on each provider site,

duration of download processes, and

number of download transmissions, each provider having associated with it and its products and services at least one of the usage elements;

calculating a payment distribution to the providers that have provided products and services to the user during the fixed-length billing period by dividing the fixed user fee into the respective percentage shares among the providers according to the usage data and corresponding usage elements associated with each provider, in relation to the usage data and usage elements associated with all providers; and

distributing the respective percentage shares of the fixed user fee to the respective providers according to the payment distribution calculated.

2. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, wherein recording usage data comprises recording the usage data on the user network access device when the user uses products and services directly from a provider, bypassing the system server.

3. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, wherein recording usage data comprises recording the usage data on the system server when the user uses the products and services via the system server.

4. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, including

recording the usage data on at least one of the system server and the user network access device, and

consolidating the usage data recorded on the system server and the user network access device to generate usage data for calculating the payment distribution.

5. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 4,

including recording the usage data on both the system server and the user network access device,

consolidating the usage data using the user network access device, and

calculating the payment distribution using the user network access device.

6. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 4, including

recording the usage data on the user network access device, and

calculating the payment distribution using the user network access device.

7. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 4, including

recording the usage data on both the system server and the user network access device,

consolidating the usage data using the system server, and

calculating the payment distribution using the system server.

8. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the <u>respective percentage</u> shares distributed sum to substantially the ~~user's~~ <u>fixed user</u> fee.

9. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, including calculating the payment distribution using the formula:

$$P_i = \left(\frac{x_i}{X}\right) f_0$$

where

$$\sum_{alli} \frac{x_i}{X} = 1,$$

f_0 =   Predetermined user fee,

P_i =   Share for distribution to provider i,

x_i =   Usage element for use by user of provider i, and

X =   Usage element for use by user of all providers

10. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the formula for calculating the payment distribution is:

$$P_i = \left(w_1 \frac{x_{i,1}}{X_1} + w_2 \frac{x_{i,2}}{X_2} + \ldots\ldots\ldots + w_j \frac{x_{i,j}}{X_j}\right) f_0$$

where,

$$\sum_{allj} w_j = 1, \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{alli} \frac{x_{i,j}}{X_j} = 1,$$

$x_{i,1}$ and X_1 = size of files accessed from provider i and all providers, respectively,

$x_{i,2}$ and X_2 = number of files accessed from provider i and all providers, respectively,

$x_{i,3}$ and X_3 = time spent on sites of provider i and all providers, respectively,

$x_{i,4}$ and X_4 = duration of download processes from provider i and all providers, respectively,

$x_{i,5}$ and X_5 = number of download transmissions from provider i and all providers, respectively, and

w_j = weighting factor ranging from 0 to 1, inclusive.

11. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, applied to a plurality of users, wherein

recording usage data and calculating a payment distribution is applied to each of the users, and

calculating the payment distribution includes integrating the payment distributions calculated for all of the users.

12. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 11, including

integrating the payments calculated using the system server, and

distributing the respective percentage shares using the system server.

13. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 5, including consolidating the usage data using the user network access device during a predetermined interval following the billing period.

14. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 5, applied to a plurality of users, wherein

each of recording usage data and calculating a payment distribution is applied to each of the users, and

calculating the payment distribution includes transmitting the payment distributions calculated from the user network access devices to the system server for integration by the system server before distributing the respective percentage shares.

15. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 14, including transmitting the payment distributions calculated from the user network access devices to the system server during a predetermined interval following the fixed-length billing period.

16. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 15, including consolidating the usage data using the user network access device during the predetermined interval following the fixed-length billing period.

17. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 6, applied to a plurality of users, wherein

each of recording usage data and calculating a payment distribution is applied to each of the users, and

calculating the payment distribution includes transmitting the payment distributions calculated from the user network access devices to the system server for integration by the system server before distributing the shares.

18. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 17, including transmitting the calculated payment distributions from the user network access devices to the system server during a predetermined interval following the <u>fixed-length</u> billing period.

19. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, wherein distributing the <u>respective percentage</u> shares includes neglecting distribution of the smallest of the <u>respective percentage</u> shares.

20. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 19, wherein distributing the <u>respective percentage</u> shares includes

setting a maximum number of providers per payment distribution,

arranging the providers in a descending order with respect to the <u>respective percentage</u> shares, and

neglecting providers lower in the descending order than the maximum number of providers.

21. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 19, wherein distributing the <u>respective percentage</u> shares includes setting a minimum percentage of the <u>fixed</u> user fee, and neglecting payments of <u>respective percentage</u> shares to the providers that <u>for whom the respective percentage shares</u> are smaller than the minimum percentage.

22. (Previously Presented) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 1, including, between installing and running a client program and recording usage data, registering each of the providers and the user and establishing an individual account for each provider and user.

23. (Currently Amended) The payment distribution method as claimed in claim 22, wherein setting up the system server and running a system program on the server is controlled by a system operator and registering each of the providers and the user and distributing the respective percentage shares is provided by a business operator different from the system operator.